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Chest Physicians Warn of Rise In Lung Cancer

By JIM SEAVER

The American College of Chest Physicians Friday warned of the "disturbing increase" in lung cancer and cautioned against identifying any single cause—such as cigaret smoking.

Official word from the college, observing its 25th anniversary in Albuquerque, was issued by Dr. Seymour Farber of San Francisco, college president, during a regionally televised report.

Farber's statement, approved earlier by the college board of regents at Western Skies, followed a debate on cigaret smoking and lung cancer.

Disturbing Proportions

Farber said the lung cancer rate has reached "disturbing proportions" and it is mandatory "every effort be made to establish causative factors that may be responsible for lung cancer."

But, he noted, while many theories have been advanced, including involvement of cigaret smoking, noxious industrial fumes and other respiratory irritants, "it is the consensus of the board of regents that further work must be carried out before any single agent or agents can be definitely indicated."

Farber said, "We can, however, report that as a result of ntensive research, new methods have been developed to assist the physician in early diagnosis of cancer of the lung."

The physician called early diagnosis "our greatest weapon in combatting cancer of the lung," adding that "a frequent checkup by your physician, which must include X-rays of the chest, is highly commended."

Sometimes Delayed

Dr. Andrew Banyai of Marquette University, noted swift diagnosis is sometimes delayed because patients may first experience symptoms associated with other ailments: cough, wheezing and spitting of blood.

Dr. Albert Andrews, University of Illinois, demonstrated how a bronchoscope tube aids diagnosis of lung cancer by permitting a look into the diseased areas.

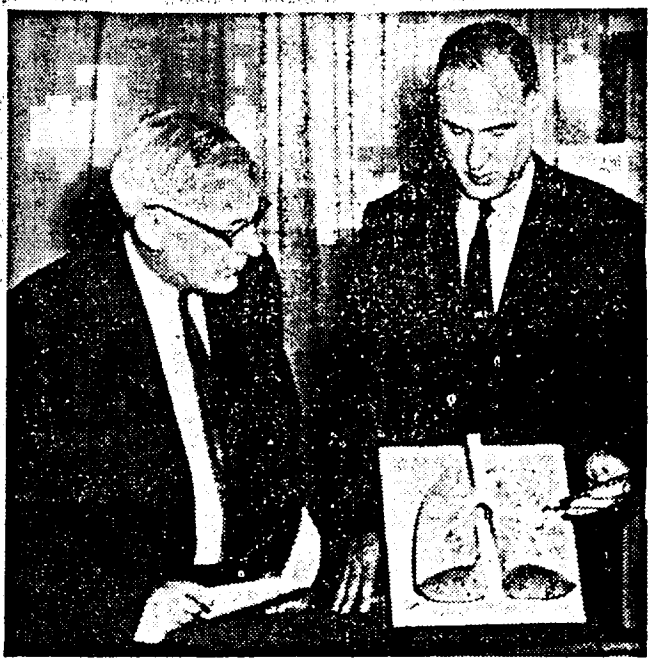
Other eminent physicians helped point out how a doctor can learn if the patient has lung cancer through cytology (cell study); X-rays which reveal "warning shadows" of cancer. Dr. Banyai noted cancer can masquerade by simulating symptoms of other diseases: the cough, chest pain, short breath.

As for treatment, the physicians noted a complete lung can be removed and the patient usually may lead a normal life, but a check must be made in advance to be sure one lung is sufficient.

Other Participants

Other physicians participating in the program included: Dr. Leo Rigler, professor of radiology, University of California; Dr. William Adams, University of Chicago; Dr. Ulrich Luft, Lovelace Foundation, Albuquerque; Dr. Rodger MacQuigg, Albuquerque; Dr. George Meneely, Vanderbilt University, Tenn.; Dr. M. Jay Flipse, Miami University, Fla.; Dr. Robert Cartwright, Albuquerque; Dr. Michael Shimkin, National Cancer Institute, Md., and Dr. L. Henry Garland, Stanford University.

The physicians will close their scientific sessions at Western Skies this afternoon. A banquet will be staged at 8 p.m. and dancing will follow at 10 a.m. All-day tours will be made to Santa Fe, Taos and Acoma Sunday before the doctors leave for home.



LUNG CANCER is discussed by Dr. A. G. Macleod, left, scientific co-ordinator for Upjohn Co., and Dr. Seymour Farber, right, San Francisco, president of the American College of Physicians, during a televised report in Albuquerque Friday night. Dr. Farber presented the official ACCP statement on smoking and lung cancer.

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